



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

December 14, 2010

10:00 AM

RI Department of Transportation

Division of Highway & Bridge Maintenance

360 Lincoln Avenue

Warwick RI, 02888

AGENDA

I. Call to Order/ Attendance—Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Lt. Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts

Major General Robert T. Bray

Ed Johnson

John Riendeau

Stuart Freiman

Kate McCarthy-Barnett

Dawn Lewis

Alysia Mihalakos

Alan Seitz

Paul Stasiuk

Robert Seltzer

Kevin Reilly

Richard James

James Lanni

Peter Ginaitt

Steve Florio

Josh O'Neill

Vincent Marzullo

Joe McCooey

Janice Pothier Pac

Eric Palazzo

Joseph Arsenault
Howard Boksenbaum
Joseph Baker
Eileen Warburton
Lori Foley
Vladimir Ibarra
Jeffrey Ahern

II. Call to Order / Attendance - Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Lieutenant Governor Roberts informed members that the council will continue to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month for the upcoming year.

The Chairwoman congratulated Kate McCarthy Barnett on her recent promotion as a Regional Disability Coordinator for FEMA Region 1. In that capacity, Kate will be responsible for special needs emergency meetings throughout New England. Chairwoman Roberts provided a citation to commemorate Kate's outstanding contributions to the citizens of Rhode Island through her work on the Emergency Management Advisory Council. Also, Lieutenant Governor Roberts congratulated Joseph Arsenault as the newly elected President of the Rhode Island Association of Emergency Managers and on the successful approval of the first ever Associates in Science Degree in Emergency Management at the Community College of Rhode Island. The Associate program will officially start in September 2011 and will replace the previous certificate program. In addition, Lieutenant Governor Roberts commended Peter Gainor's leadership as the Providence Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) received national accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. The certification process took approximately two years to complete but it reiterates that PEMA meets the highest national standards. With this distinction, Providence becomes the first major city in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition.

Lastly, Lieutenant Governor Roberts congratulated the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency as it has been awarded \$11 million of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). On Thursday, December 16th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Communities, State Agencies, and Private Non-Profit organizations are encouraged to attend an informative meeting to discuss the grant program at the Radisson Airport Hotel (2081 Post Road, Warwick Rhode Island 02886).

III. Approval of Minutes from October 12, 2010

The minutes from the October 12 meeting were unanimously approved.

IV. RIEMA Update

Robert T. Bray, Adjutant General of Rhode Island

General Bray discussed some of the initiatives presented at the National Governor Association's Special Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety. The committee has jurisdiction over issues regarding homeland security, the National Guard and homeland defense, criminal justice, public safety, and veteran's affairs. On that same note, the General discussed some of the changes in policy that Governors are working on to provide flexibility and support to the dual hat of command and control capability for pre-scripted missions. Since there are over 200

missions, this mutually agreed upon language will expedite deployment of response assets and proactive moving of personnel, equipments and supplies in anticipation of a disaster declaration. The General highlighted the key role of the Fusion centers particularly as the Department of Homeland Security and the administration see it as a true citizen collaboration. He reiterated the need to continue to support and further develop their role and enhance current gaps in information. General Bray discussed some of the challenges in regards to the need to know issues and who is privy to that information and when. As the Department of Homeland Security continues to incorporate best practices, clear guidance to these procedures will emerge. Lastly, the General was pleased with the advocacy of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation as it was able to reduce the state share of the cost from the March/April floods from 25% to 10%.

J. David Smith, Executive Director Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency

Director Smith was unable to attend the meeting and thus Deputy Johnson provided a brief update. Deputy Johnson reiterated the award of \$11 million for HMGP and urge individuals to attend the training for communities, state agencies and non-profit organizations. The Deputy discussed several of the initiatives that RIEMA will be working on in the upcoming year, including Port Security, an EOC update and a Cyber Security Initiative among others.

V. Putting Rhode Island on the Broadband Map

Stuart Freiman, BroadBand Program Manager and John Riendeau, Business

Development Manager Defense, RI Economic Development Corporation

Based on input Mr. Freiman received from Director Smith and the Interoperable Communications Committee (ICC) during summer 2010, he proposed the “Public Safety Notification System.” The project was approved as part of the overall grant in late September 2010 in the amount of \$300,000. The allocations of the money will be \$150,000 in 2011, and \$75,000 per year in 2012 and 2013.

The purpose of the project is to explore the impact of the Emergency Notification System has on broadband adoption in the community, as well as public safety’s ability to communicate with the general public over the Internet during an emergency situation.

Mr. Freiman sees a great opportunity in the Public Safety Network to ensure the safety of the American people; every first responder should have access to a nationwide, wireless, interoperable broadband public safety network.

The Obama administration is the first to focus on Broadband Infrastructure. This initiative will improve access to homes, increase access to individuals, and improve anchor institutions, hospitals, libraries and areas that deal with the public. There has been an investment of \$21.7 million BTOP grant for 339 miles of fiber to connect community anchor institutions, \$1.6 million BTOP grants to provide 600+ computers and 10 mobile computer centers for 70 public libraries throughout the state. Broadband Mapping, Literacy and Adoption \$4.52 million SBBD grant to create and maintain state broadband map, address public awareness and education and develop plans to increase adoption rate.

The project has been divided into 4 phases:

Phase 1: Data Collection, Verification and Display

Phase 2: State Broadband Capacity Building which will expand broadband adoption in the state.

Phase 3: Broadband Application Development will explore and test the impact that critical, high value on-line applications can have on increasing broadband adoption among those who do not use the Internet today.

Phase 4: Technical Assistance will leverage existing structure within the state to greatly expand contact with our target population and also develop relationships and collaborations with newly identified groups/organizations to achieve the same goals.

For further information about the presentation or to request a copy please contact contact Stuart Freiman Broadband Program Manager at the RI EDC via email at sfreiman@riedc.com or John Riendeau at jriendeau@riedc.com.

Protecting the Past-Rhode Island, Eileen Warburton and Lori Foley of Northeast Document Conservation Center

Protecting the Past-Rhode Island began as a pilot project, 2008-2009. The project trained 89 cultural institutions to create a disaster plan. The project developed workshops in risk analysis and first response. As the project developed, they began to build and sustain alliances for communication and collaboration between the cultural heritage community and emergency management community to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from events that may adversely impact the cultural resources of Rhode Island.

COSTEP Coordinating Statewide Emergency Preparedness

Is a free planning tool designed to bring together cultural institutions and emergency management agencies to address the needs of the cultural heritage community in the event of a disaster. The framework guides states through the planning process by providing objectives, topics for discussion, and suggested outcomes and products.

The goals of COSTEP is to build relationships and to educate cultural custodians and emergency management professionals.

For further information about Protecting the Past-RI and the COSTEP program or to request a copy of the presentation please contact Eileen Warburton Project Manager via email at warburton.dplan@warbs.net.

VI. New Business, Member Comments, Suggestions

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 11, 2011.